

## LETTER VI.

TO LORD CASTLEREAGH.

*On the Overthrow of the Emperor Napoleon.*

MY LORD,—The intelligence of this grand event reached me on Saturday last, and in the following manner. I had been out very early in the morning, and, in returning home to breakfast, I met a populous *gang of gypsies*. At the first view of them, I thought of nothing but the robberies which they constantly commit upon us, and I began to plan my measures of defence; but, upon a nearer approach to them, I perceived the whole caravan decorated with *laurel*. The blackguard ruffians of men had *laurel* boughs in their hats; the nasty ferocious looking women, with pipes in their jaws, and straddling along like German trulls, had *laurel* leaves pinned against their sides. The poor asses, that went bending along beneath the burdens laid on them by their merciless masters, and that were quivering their skins to get the swarm of flies from those parts of their bodies which the wretched drivers had beaten raw, had their bridles and halters and pads stuck over with *laurel*. Somewhat staggered by this symbol of victory, I, hesitating what to do, passed the gang in silence, until I met an extraordinarily ill-looking fellow, who, with two half-starved dogs, performed the office of rear-guard. I asked him the meaning of the *laurel* boughs, and he informed me, that they were hoisted on account of the "*glorious victory obtained by the Duke of Wellington over Bony*;" that they were furnished them by a good gentleman, in a black coat and big white wig, whose house they had passed the day before, between Andover and Botley, and who had given them several pots of ale, wherein to drink the Duke's health.—"And, to be sure," added he, "it is glorious news, and we may now hope to see the gallon loaf at a *grate* again, as 'twas in my old father's time."

Leaving this political economist, this "loyal man and friend of social order," to

overtake his companions, I went homeward with a mind far from being so completely made up as that of the Gipsy and his black-coated and white-wig'd benefactor. I had, when I came to see the news-papers; when I came to read the insolent language of the *TIMES* and the *COURIER*, no doubt of what would follow; and, there appears now very little room for doubting, that "the paternal authority" will very soon be restored in France by the force of the bayonet and the cannon ball. There is a *talk* of making a stand for the independence of France; but, there does not appear the *stuff* for making such stand. The attempt at a *mixty maxty* government deprived the state of all zeal. If, indeed, we were yet, even yet, to see a *Directory*, or a *Consulate*, or a *Convention*, or a *Committée de Salut Public*, the Duke and his victory would prove of little avail. But, to defend France now requires all the *energy* of 1792, 3, and 4; and, that energy appears to be fled for ever; or, at least, till time and opportunity shall again call it forth. It is very evident, that Napoleon, from the hour of his return to Paris, perceived, that it would not do merely to re-assume his title and authority; that he would, in that case, have no friends in the republicans, and all enemies in the royalists. But, besides, there is no reason to believe, that he was not perfectly sincere in his professions relative to the liberties of France. Still, the *Empress!* "*The august spouse.*" The "*august son.*" These hung about him; and he could not bring himself to say: "Up again with the *Republic*, and I will again be her *General Bonaparte.*" He could not screw himself up to this; and hence, doubtless, his want of enthusiastic support from many of the republicans, who, if they must have a *king*, claiming an hereditary right to rule over them, did not think it worth their while to commit themselves in the quarrel: while, on the other hand, he had all the kings, all the nobles, and all the priests of the whole of Europe against him; together with an army of a *million and eleven thousand of regular troops!*

and, which we shall by-and-by find to have been of *greater weight than all the rest put together*, FIFTY MILLIONS OF OUR MONEY, voted by the Honourable House. This is the key of cabinets; the powder, ball, swords, and bayonets of armies. This it is that will decide the fate of France now, as it did in 1814. In the times of the *Republic*, indeed, our millions had no effect. There were many very cruel men in power, during those stormy times; but, those men were *sound* as towards their country. There was little of *moderation*, to be sure; but, there was a great deal of *fidelity*.

However, those times are passed. The men, who have declined to go back to *revolutionary measures*, have now to make their peace as they can; or, rather, I take it, to submit to their fate. They will know, in all human probability, before this day week, whether the pensioned BURKE spoke truth, when he said, that Kings had *long memories* as well as *long arms*. Our TIMES newspaper already has marked out some hundreds for the *gallows*. He is for "*hanging them up at once*." And, really, I think his advice very likely to be followed. Blood, blood, is the cry on every side; and, those in power, at Paris, will now see what is the consequence of doing things by *halves*, when they have to deal with kings, nobles, and priests! They will now see what is to be gained by their "*moderation*!" They will soon see, that power must be maintained, if at all, by the same sort of means as those, by which it has been acquired. Their fate and that of Napoleon, whose name will always be pronounced with admiration of his warlike deeds, will be a warning to future revolutionists how they place kings upon their thrones, after having dethroned them. I do not say, that it is to be *regretted*; but, it has astonished every one to see the Royal Family of France suffered to escape so tranquilly, even after some of them were *taken in arms*! Napoleon, will soon find, that *this* was not the way to insure the safety of his own person.

On what *conditions* Louis may be restored, we cannot yet say; but our newspapers insist, that he ought to be compelled to adopt such measures as the safety of Europe, and particularly of England, may demand. Whether these writers mean to propose the drawing out of the fore-teeth and the cutting off of the fingers and

thumb of the right hand of the male inhabitants of France, I know not. But, I think, we shall hear them propose the annihilation of the *fleet* of France; the surrender of her frontier towns; the abolition of all the new nobility; the disbanding of the whole of the army; the restoration of the papal territories in Provence; the giving up of something to Spain; the re-establishment of the feudal rights and courts; and, I shall be very much surprised if we do not hear it forcibly recommended to *Louis le Desirée* to re-establish the monasteries and the *tythes*.

There will be some work to accomplish all this; yet, all this would not answer *the end in view*, unless the French pay a share of our NATIONAL DEBT, the *annual interest* of which will now be forty-three millions sterling; and, unless we could, besides, make them pay their share towards the support of our PAUPERS. Unless these can be accomplished, people will not live *here* to pay part of this debt, if they can avoid it by going to France. Their *loyalty* will not keep them at home to live meanly, while they can live in affluence by only crossing the channel. If France were a republic, less rich people would go, than will go, France being a monarchy. Our old *malady* will return with the Bourbons, to restore whom we have so loaded ourselves with debts, that many of our people will be compelled to go and live under them.

All is not over, therefore, when Louis is up again. By disabling France for war, we shall compel her to set about the arts of peace. We shall make France *a country to live in*; a country that the arts of peace will seek. She will, do what we will, soon become our rival in manufactures. Commerce will revive with her very quickly. Amongst all the *fighting nations* she is, after all, the only one that is *lightly taxed*; and, I repeat, that, unless we can make her pay a share of the interest of the debt, contracted in the subduing of her, we shall, with all our successes and all our boastings, have only accelerated the destruction of our own system. In short, unless we can make France *tributary* to us, to the amount of 20 millions sterling a year, we shall live to mourn the triumphs, at which we now rejoice.

I am, &c. &c.  
W. COBBETT.

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ABDICATION OF NAPOLEON IN FAVOUR OF HIS SON. APPOINTMENT OF A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. PROCEEDINGS OF THE TWO CHAMBERS. STATE OF THE ARMIES, &c.

This has been a week of events, perhaps the most extraordinary which are recorded in history. The Emperor Napoleon has resigned the throne of France, and his son, by the Empress Maria Louisa, daughter of the Emperor Francis of Austria, and niece of the Queen of France, Maria Antoinette, who was guillotined, during the Revolution, has been proclaimed Emperor of France, by the style and title of Napoleon the II<sup>d</sup>. The proceedings by which this great event has been brought about, are as follow:—Napoleon, after losing the battle of Waterloo, which, perhaps, was attended with more fatal consequences than any yet ever heard of, returned to Paris. He lost no time in sending a Message to the Legislative Bodies, calling upon them to take measures for the re-organization of his army, and for the replacing of its "*Material*," (that is, in English, all the engines of war) which, it appears, had been completely lost.—This Message was received with, at least, coldness; and Napoleon, seeing that the feeling of the Assemblies were against him, sent a Message, informing them, that he had abdicated in favour of his Son!—This Message excited very turbulent debates. The Republican body seemed to pause at his right to abdicate in favour of any one. Those of the Assemblies who were Bonapartists, argued, that there was no other way of exciting enthusiasm in the army; and a third party appeared to be tinctured with a sort of attachment to the Duke of Orleans; at least, they were openly denounced as such by several Members. At last, however, a Council of Regency was established, consisting of the following persons: Count CARNOT, FOUCHÉ, (Duke of Otranto) General GRENIER, CAULAINCOURT (Duke of Vicenza) and Baron QUINETTE.

On the 22<sup>d</sup> June, the debates were opened by the delivery of the Declaration of Napoleon, of which the following is a copy:

BONAPARTE'S DECLARATION TO THE FRENCH PEOPLE.

FRENCHMEN!—In commencing war for maintaining the national independence, I relied on

the union of all efforts, of all wills, and the concurrence of all national authorities. I had reason to hope for success, and I braved all the declarations of the Powers against me. Circumstances appear to me changed. I offer myself as a sacrifice to the hatred of the enemies of France. May they prove sincere in their declarations, and have really directed them only against my power! My political life is terminated, and I proclaim my son under the title of Napoleon II. Emperor of the French. The present Ministers will provisionally form the Council of the Government. The interest which I take in my son induces me to invite the Chambers to form, without delay, the Regency by a law. Unite all for the public safety, in order to remain an independent nation.

(Signed)

NAPOLEON.

The *Duke of Otranto* addressed the Assembly in a very energetic speech, in which he concluded by proposing that a council of five persons should be appointed, with instructions to them to treat with the Allies for the maintenance of the independence of the French nation.—M. DUPIN followed. He stated, that the first duty of the House was to accept the resignation of Napoleon.

After a very long and turbulent debate, the members already mentioned were elected to form the Provisional Government. On the following day, the 23<sup>d</sup>, M. Berenger moved, that the Provisional government should be declared collectively responsible. After considerable agitation and confusion, the sitting closed, with recognising the accession of Napoleon II. as Emperor of the French, and instructing the new Provisional government to communicate forthwith with the Allies. The Debates in the House of Peers were nearly of the same kind, and had the same result.—Ney, the Prince of Moskwa, gave the following detail of the state of the armies.

Marshal Grouchy and the Duke of Dalmatia are not capable of assembling 60,000 men. It is impossible to assemble them on the line of the army of the north. Marshal Grouchy in particular has not been able to collect more than 7 or 8000 men. The Duke of Dalmatia was not able to rally any troops at Rocroy, and the only means you have of saving the country is to open a negociation.

On this statement a long debate ensued, in which no sort of blame was attempted to be attributed in any way, directly or

indirectly, to Napoleon, or any of his generals; and, on the motion of the Count de *Ponte Contant*, the House resolved, that the Resolutions of the House of Representatives be adopted, in which the war was declared *National*, and the whole nation called upon to defend itself. During the debates in the Chamber of Representatives, the following most energetic speech was made by *M. De la Fayette*, that celebrated man, who has cut so distinguished a figure in the cause of liberty, from his first appearance in public life as Commander in Chief of the French Army or Armies, through the whole period of the French Revolution up to the present day; during all which he has proved himself decidedly and conclusively a true friend of liberty:—

“Gentlemen, while for the first time for many years you hear a voice which the old friends of liberty may yet recognize, I feel myself called upon to speak to you of the dangers of the country which you at present alone have the power of saving. Sinister reports have been spread; they are unfortunately confirmed. This is the moment to rally round the old tricoloured standard, that of 89, that of liberty, equality, and public order; it is that alone which can protect us from foreign attacks and internal dissensions. Allow, Gentleman, a veteran in that sacred cause, who was ever an enemy to faction, to submit to you some resolutions, which I flatter myself you will feel the necessity of adopting.”

Art. 1. The Chamber declares that the independence of the nation is menaced.

2. The Chamber declares its sittings permanent. All attempts to dissolve it shall be considered high-treason; whoever shall render himself guilty of such an attempt shall be considered a traitor to his country, and condemned as such.

3. The Army of the Line, the National Guards, who have fought, and still fight, for the liberty, the independence, and the territory of France, have merited well of the country.

These resolutions were carried in both houses. On the 24th; a letter was read in the House of Representatives, from General *Delange*. Announcing, that proposals had been made to him by *Laroche Jacquelin*, for a suspension of arms, to enable him to communicate to other Vendean chiefs “a proposition for pacifying the country.” Another letter was read

from General *Lemarque*, dated 22d June, in which he states, that he had “surprised a large body of Vendean, to the amount of 18 or 20,000, near *La Roche Ser-vieres*, routed them, and killed and wounded between 12 and 1,500 men.” The following decree was then proposed:

“Art. I. The Government is authorised to secure, by means of REQUISITION, the subsistence of the armies and the transport of troops.”

“2. The Government will adopt such measures as to prevent and punish any abuses in the exercise of these requisitions.

(Signed) *Le Duc d'OTRANTO*, President.”

On the 25th the *Duke of Otranto* communicated the following extract of the correspondence, received by the Minister of War during the 24th, relative to the operations of the armies:

*Marshal Grouchy* writes from *Recroi*, that he has entered that place with 20,000 infantry, 5000 cavalry, and a numerous artillery. The *Duke of Dalmatia* writes from *Mezieres* on the 19th June, that the enemy will be in three days before *Laon*; that great disorders have taken place in the administration of the army; that there are a great number of fugitives, and that he is doing every thing in his power to repair the evil. A telegraphic Dispatch of the 22d June, announces that the army of the *Moselle* was attacked in the night, that the post of *St. Jean* has retired upon *Forbach* and *St. Avold*. Our army of the Alps has repulsed the enemy upon the bridge of *La Grange*, and taken 150 prisoners. Nothing new in the army of the Eastern Pyrenees. The spirit of the department of the *Gers* appears to be ameliorated.

After a long debate, the following laws were passed against Agitators, and afterwards received the sanction of the senate and the Provisional government:

Art. 1. The Commission of Government, in order to ensure public tranquillity, besides the measures indicated by law, may order against those who shall be accused of provoking or favouring disturbances, displaying signs of rallying, or other colours than the National ones, spreading false and alarming news, either being placed under superintendence, in a place different from their place of residence, or arrest without being obliged to send them before a Court of Law in the period prescribed by the law.

2. The present disposition shall only be executed for two months, at which time the individuals taken up or placed under superintendence shall be free, or sent, if necessary, before the Tribunals.



3. There shall be created in each of the Legislative Chambers a Committee, to which the complaints of individuals affected by the present law shall be addressed.

A decree was issued by the Provisional Government, requiring, that "all the young men of 1815 remaining of the 160,000 ordered to be levied on the 9th of October, 1813, shall be immediately placed in active service;" and by an order of the Minister of War, all officers and soldiers belonging to the army of the north, then at Paris without leave of absence, "are required to depart within 24 hours, and proceed to Soissons, whence they will be directed to their respective corps," under pain of being "conveyed to the military prisons and their names delivered up to public censure."—During this sitting, addresses were presented by the Parisian Federation, by the confederated pupils of the Schools of Law and Medicine, and from the pupils of the Lyceum Napoleon, declaring that they put themselves under the orders of the Assembly, for the defence of the country. Honorable mention of these was made in the minutes. The following address of the Parisian Federation, will give an idea of the whole:—

*Gentlemen Representatives*—The country was threatened: the Bretons, the Lyonnois, the Burgundians, confederated to repel our aggressors. Inspired by the same sentiments, the Parisians, who in all times have given the example of patriotism, immediately rose, and independently of the federations of St. Antoine and St. Marceau, the capital saw the Parisian federation formed in its bosom. While our armies were extended over our lines, and were preparing for battle, the Parisian federation organised and fortified itself, and erected in the midst of the capital a redoubt, which will bear its name, and which it has sworn to defend. Great events have just broken out: greater perhaps are in preparation. The representatives of the nation call to the defence of the country all Frenchmen capable of bearing arms. The Parisian federation has heard this appeal: the Parisian federation presents itself in a body. Its reckons among its members a great number of old soldiers of all ranks, artillerymen and young and robust citizens, who all burn with the desire of advancing on the threatened points, and of striking the enemies of our independence. The Confederates solicit arms, a military organization, and the honour of serving their country usefully, whether on the frontiers, the heights, or in the

interior of the capital, in order to watch over the maintenance of order, which the disaffected would in vain endeavour to trouble. The Parisian federation is animated with an unanimous wish: it knows no efforts beyond its zeal for the holy cause of liberty. Its dearest hope in making this solemn demand, is to be placed in advance, to prove immediately by actions its devotedness and patriotism. The Members of the Confederation,

CARRET, President,

CHERY, Treasurer.

QUINET, Secretary-Gen.

PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNMENT COMMISSION TO THE FRENCH PEOPLE.

Paris, June 24.

FRENCHMEN,—Within the period of a few days glorious successes and a dreadful reverse have again agitated your destinies. A great sacrifice appeared necessary to your peace and to that of the world, and Napoleon abdicated the Imperial Power. His abdication forms the term of his political life. His son is proclaimed. Your new Constitution, which possesses as yet only good principles, is about to undergo its application, and even those principles are to be purified and extended. There no longer exist powers jealous of each other. The space is free to the enlightened patriotism of your Representatives, and the Peers feel, think, and vote as your mandatories. After twenty-five years of political tempests the moment has arrived when every thing wise and sublime that has been conceived respecting social institutions, may be perfected in yours. Let reason and genius speak, and from whatever side their voices may proceed they shall be heard. Plenipotentiaries have departed, in order to treat in the name of the nation, and to negotiate with the Powers of Europe that peace which they have promised on one condition, which is now fulfilled. The whole world will, like you, be attentive to their reply. Their answer will make known whether justice and promises are any thing on earth. Frenchmen! be united; let all rally under circumstances of such great importance. Let the civil discords be appeased; let dissension be silent at this moment in which the great interests of nations are to be discussed. Be united from the North of France to the Pyrenees; from La Vendee to Marseilles. Who is he, who, born on the soil of France, whatever may be his party, whatever his political opinions, will not range himself under the National Standard to defend the Independence of the Country? Armies may, in part, be destroyed; but the experience of all ages, and of all nations, proves that an intrepid nation, combating for justice and liberty cannot be de-

stroyed. The Emperor, in abdicating, has offered himself as a sacrifice. The Members of the Government devote themselves in accepting from Representatives the reins of the State.

(Signed) The Duke of OTRANTO, President.  
T. BERLIER, Secretary, &c.

Thus, according to the last accounts received, is situated the great empire of France. Napoleon has abdicated in favour of his son, who is the present sovereign, acknowledged as such by the representatives of the French nation. The Allied Powers declared solemnly, in the face of Europe and of the world, that their object in going to war, was to remove Bonaparte from power. He is removed from the throne, and is become a private citizen. What more do they want? They abjured all idea of interfering with the internal government of France. We shall see now whether they were sincere or not. For my part, I still think, as I have always thought, that it is a war not against this man, or that man, but against liberty and independence. The allies will shew at once by their conduct, whether this is the case. If it is, Louis will be again placed upon the throne. How long he will continue there, will remain yet to be seen. But, at all events, the scenes which have lately occurred, without the least popular commotion, and which appear likely to occur, form one of the most extraordinary instances of sudden change, from one extreme to another, that has ever taken place in the annals of the human race. If the French nation are sincere in their wish for liberty and independence, the allied armies, not even with the assistance of Lord Castlereagh, who is said to be on the point of again displaying his diplomatic talents in a new sphere, will be unable to conquer thirty millions of people, animated by a love of freedom, and a hatred of their former oppressors. Success against such a cause would be morally and physically impossible. If, however, the Bourbons are restored, and the dreadful work of slaughter, which our corrupt newspapers recommend, is indeed to be commenced on all the actors in the late scenes in France, humanity will have gained little by the cessation of war, the horrors of which will only have been transferred from the field of battle to the platform of the executioner. Let those who have been

accustomed to admire the sentiments of indignation and horror professed by the *Times* writer against the alledged cruelties of the Jacobins, read the following extract from that paper, of Friday, and then ask themselves, who are the most deserving of the epithets of wretches, savages, and murderers? "A weak and timid wish to spare the effusion of blood at Fontainebleau has caused the effusion of ten times as much blood at Ligny and Waterloo. A visionary hope of conciliating the ferocious soldiery and unprincipled Jacobins of Paris has afforded them the means of concerting a treason the most disgraceful to the age. Let us at least profit by this sad experience. Let us turn the unparalleled valour of Waterloo to a beneficial account. To think of reforming a CARNOT, or a CAULAINCOURT, is the height of folly: to imagine that we can tame the ferocity of BONAPARTE's savages of the Imperial Guard is no less absurd. Every individual that has taken an active part in this perfidious and atrocious rebellion, must be brought under the due coercion of the law. Not to make some examples of severity among such a horde of criminals would be to condemn the virtuous to a certainty of renewed and cruel persecution. To compound with the traitors would be a death-blow to loyalty. We are happy to believe that the King of FRANCE has adopted a firm and decisive line of conduct. The weak and temporising councils by which he was induced to load the ungrateful with honours, and to exempt the guilty from punishment, have, at length, lost their weight and influence. The KING, in re-entering France has acted from the energy of his own mind, and that energy will teach him that it is as much his duty to protect and encourage the loyal, as it is to coerce and punish the seditious. We earnestly hope he will be supported in a just and discriminating firmness by all the Allies. We hope that no Sovereign will interpose between him and the leaders of the Rebellion, to screen the latter from the punishment they so richly merit. Let not a band of murderers escape, because they have the audacity to style themselves a Committee of Government. Hitherto these wretches and their accomplices have



"been able at once to corrupt and to oppress the French nation; now the sword is broken in their hands, let us not leave them the means of acquiring new weapons to our own destruction, and that of civilised society."—TIMES of 30th June, 1815.

Since writing the above, Paris Papers of Monday have arrived, in which it is stated, that "Napoleon is gone to Havre, where he is to embark for England, accompanied by Prince Jerome, Prince Joseph, a first Equerry, a first Chamberlain, and two Valets de Chambre." If this step has really been taken, it need not surprise any one if it is the prelude to the restoration of the Bourbons to the throne of France. Thanks to the vanity, the contemptible vanity of Napoleon, and the sickle disposition of the French people, for so unlooked for a change.

#### INVASION OF FRANCE.

MR. COBBETT.—Those who consider the late disaster of Napoleon a prelude to the submission of the French people to the yoke of the Bourbons, seem to forget the events, of a similar nature, which have occurred since the beginning of the revolution. During the first campaign in the Netherlands, the French General Biren was on the eve of attacking the Austrians at Mons, with an army already flushed with victory, and which made the air resound with shouts of "victory or death." In a moment it was seized with a panic; the whole was thrown into confusion; the Austrians commenced the attack; the republicans were forced to retreat with immense loss, and only escaped entire annihilation by a detachment, under General Rochambeau, coming to their relief.—Notwithstanding this disaster, it is well known that the French very soon after drove their assailants from the field. When General Dumourier was obliged to retreat before the Prussians, he sent orders to General Chazot, whom he had detached with about 10,000 men from the main body of his army, to join him. This division on its march fell in with 1500 Prussians, which they took for the advanced-guard of Clairfayt's army. Disorder immediately pervaded the ranks; they threw down their arms and fled in all directions. Intelligence of this having reached the

army under Dumourier, it excited terror and confusion through the camp. Every one cried out he was betrayed; the army became disorganized; flight ensued, and it was not till they had reached the gates of Paris, that the runaways were convinced they were in safety. All the world knows how soon these same fugitives compelled the Prussians to fly before them. The battle of Jemappe, which decided the fate of Flanders in November 1792, was followed by a similar occurrence. After the Austrians fled to Mons, Dumourier sent two brigades to occupy the suburbs of that place. On their march, the advanced guard was seized with a panic, from a strange apprehension that the Austrians had undermined the ground over which they were marching. Terror and disorder ensued, which having communicated to the rest, the two brigades fell back upon the main army, by which the Austrians gained time to effect their retreat in safety. Shortly after this, however, we find the same troops that had discovered so ill grounded a fear, driving the Austrians before them, and possessing themselves of Brussels.—Many other instances could be added of the same description; but these are sufficient to shew, that that sort of disaster, which led to the retreat of Napoleon, will not justify the opinion, now industriously propagated, that France has been subdued, and that the allied armies may proceed, without interruption, to Paris. In the discussions, which have taken place in the Senate and Legislative body, respecting the elevation of Napoleon's son to the Imperial dignity, the most decided hostility appeared against the family of the Bourbons. If, as it is said, the British army have marched into France with Louis XVIII. at their head, nothing more will be wanting to open the eyes of the French to the plans now forming to replace that unfortunate personage on the throne; no other stimulus will be necessary to rouse the nation, as it was roused in the early part of the revolution, to resist all attempts to impose a government so hostile to its feelings, and so much at variance with the true interests and glory of France.

But it will be said, that the near approach of the allies to Paris, precludes all idea of any resistance which the French people can offer, being successful. It is

very true, that the British and Prussian armies are now considerably advanced into France; but it is equally true, that the enemies of France possessed the same advantages in 1792, and yet were obliged to retreat. "The enemy is at the gates of Paris. *Verdun*, which lies in his way, cannot hold out longer than eight days."—This was the state of affairs at that period, "but the citizens who defend it (*Verdun*) have sworn that they will perish rather than surrender it." They were faithful to their oaths, and the invaders were driven back.—The only doubt remaining in my mind is, that the people of France are not so ardent in the cause of freedom as they were in 1792. So much has been done to familiarize them with *royalty*, to impress their minds with the importance of a constitutional *monarchy*, and to fascinate them with the vain and gaudy trappings of an *Imperial dynasty*, that if they again revert to the reign of despotism and priestcraft, they will only have themselves to blame for the melancholy change. Napoleon has always possessed a great share of my esteem and respect. But I never could forget the violence he offered to liberty, when he seized upon the government, under the name of "First Consul." It was the first step towards extinguishing *public spirit*. What followed served only to benumb the faculties, and to prepare France for the re-establishment of that system, which it had cost her so many years of suffering to get rid of.—Why did not Napoleon, at once, renounce the imperial dignity, and return to those principles which were the cause of his early good fortune, and which procured him more real and substantial glory than he ever derived from the imperial bauble? Had he done this, France would have been saved; had he resumed the endearing name and title of "*General Bonaparte*, Commander of the armies of the *Republic*," he would, indeed, have deserved well of his country; he would have drawn all parties around him. The very sound would have appalled the tyrants of the earth, and little more would have been necessary to ensure the triumph of liberty. But, no—he abdicates only in favour of his son, whom he desires to be proclaimed by the regal title of *Napoleon II!*—Alas! this very son is a branch of that house which has taken the most decided part

against France ever since she declared for independence. What sort of ideas of *freedom* can this child form, under the tutelage of a daughter of the House of Austria?—Where are the *hylacon* days, which Frenchmen had a right to look for under a free representative government, when such prospects as these seem to open before them?—The contemplation is gloomy indeed. Still, I am free to acknowledge, that I would rather prefer the reign of Napoleon the II<sup>d</sup>, with all its disadvantages, to that of the Bourbons. The former has the semblance, at least, of being the choice of the nation. The latter has been twice expelled, and if he is again restored, it must be by the sword, a mode of erecting a government at all times hostile to the legitimate rights of the people, and subversive of the true principles of liberty.

ARISTIDES.

#### BRITISH POLITICAL OBJECTS.

MR. COBBETT.—The policy of the British government, as well with respect to its own domestic interests, as to those of foreign relations, should be to nurture, to extend, and to establish the cause of rational liberty. What has given to the British realms the transcendant authority, and the vast political resources they possess, but the popular and liberal institutions of the legislature by which they are governed. If reference be had to the best periods of the Assyrian, the Egyptian, the Grecian, and the Roman governments, it will be found that the high renown and distinction of these several states, arose from the liberty enjoyed by the people, by the recognition of inherent civic rights, and by the mutual confidence that subsisted between the governing and the governed. The moment that intrigue, and despotic artifice reared their baneful sceptre, and gained the ascendancy of public virtue, all the political advantages of those wise institutions were practically lost, and delapidation and ruin marked the fatal effects of such deplorable aberration from sound policy. "Evil communications corrupt good manners," is a maxim that has the sanction of holy writ, and if it were not there recorded, it is incessantly proving in the individual and national intercourse of men. It is undoubtedly





the policy and interest of governments similarly constituted, to co-operate in each others plans of procedure, and not to attempt the solecism of reconciling in practice what is radically and irreconcilably different in principle. Agreeably to this rule of policy, the British government should be anxious to conciliate the good opinion, and prefer the alliance of kindred forms of legislature, if any such there are, and not for purposes of temporary power, or for objects unworthy of an independent nation, enter into any political compacts with powers that have nothing in them at all *congenious*; nay, that found their schemes of authority, and strength on principles of tyranny, at utter variance with British liberty. Is it possible that any benefit can accrue to real British interests, by cultivating friendly and confidential relations with States that have not the slightest affinity with the constitutional liberty of Great Britain? In what points of sound policy can nations, governed by principles of liberty and slavery, faithfully concur? If mutual sincerity exists in their engagements, must they not make mutual sacrifices of their respective systems for the benefit of these engagements; and if that be the case, how is the cause of liberty furthered by the alliance, and what practical benefit is likely to result to the enslaved nation, who sees that professions of liberty are not so unbending but they may be made to accord with the habitual objects of avowed despotism? The intercourse is unnatural and necessarily tends mutually to vitiate and injure the contracting parties, without a chance of advancing the political virtue of either. In this view of the hurtful discordancy, that must arise in the alliance of governments essentially differing in political principles, and practice, is it not an anxious consideration for Britons to ascertain what possible good can result to the British nation, by pledging its blood and treasure for objects that might countenance and protect despotic governments, but cannot possibly benefit a liberal and popular system of legislation? In the exact proportion in which the despotic allies of Great Britain have their territorial possessions, and political powers increased by any compact into which they may enter with the government of this country, must the real interests, and even

political security of that country, be diminished and endangered. Where unrestrained despotism exists, rational liberty can have no secure abode. Overtly or covertly, the machinations of tyranny are incessantly directed against popular freedom, inasmuch as the one is totally incompatible with the other. As liberty and tyranny, therefore, cannot co-exist, how is it that they can be associated in alliance for any vindicable object? Tyranny never lends its aid to liberty, and liberty disdains to assist the cause of tyranny. All alliance, then, obtaining between such opposite systems, is not less reprehensible in principle than, sooner or later, ruinous in practice. It is very natural and perhaps even commendable, agreeably to the existing system, for Russia to seek the aid of alliance from all the European states founded on a similar scheme of government, but with what consistency can that, and other kindred states, ask co-operation from the British nation, knowing that their systems of government are so widely different? What is there in common between the Russian and German governments, and that of Great Britain. The two former are founded on the sole will of the personal sovereign, excluding from all consideration the political rights of the people; the latter constitutionally rests on a strict representative system, in which the people are acknowledged to be every thing, and that without them there can be nothing. What interests, legitimately or consistently associated, can the government of Great Britain seek in conjunction with its present allies, in waging hostilities against France? The French have proclaimed, and are now seeking the establishment of national liberty and independence. These privileges have been bottomed on a representative system of government, comprehending, with but a few exceptions, the most important advantages of a free and an enlightened form of legislation. Its ground work is not dissimilar to that of the English Constitution. Does not this circumstance, as well as its generic character of civil liberty, naturally assort it with British views, and should it not as naturally secure it British amity and protection? Is not the prosperity of French liberty favourable to all that is excellent in the con-

stitutional charter of Great Britain; and would not the destruction of the one endanger the safety of the other? Is it possible to suppose that the genuine spirit of the British constitution can be embattled against France, in opposition to her establishing a similar form of government? Were the British people truly represented in Parliament, as prescribed by the constitutional law of the land, would it be possible to sanction a war against French liberty and independence by legislative provisions for its support? French liberty is only dangerous to despotic states; its tendency should awaken no apprehension in the British government; it will be more likely to justify and confirm the constitutional excellencies of that government, than at all to invade or undermine them. Great Britain and America should be earnest in their devotion to the ameliorated state of French government; they should regard it as another important link in the chain of power, that promises ultimately to extend and establish the influence of political liberty over the habitable world. The prejudices, habits, and ignorance of national slavery must gradually give way to an enlightening system of education, before the example of legislative liberty, constitutionally provided for in England, America, and France, can become as universal as it is necessary to the wants and happiness of mankind.

A TRUE BRITON.

#### ON THE TERM PETITION.

MR. COBBETT.—The admirable observations, recently made in his place in the House of Commons, by Sir Francis Burdett, in the memorable instance of presenting the Westminster Petition against the present war, are well adapted to enlighten the British people in the genuine political quality of a constitutional petition. It is quite clear, what, in the framing of that privilege, must have been designed by it; but the choice of the term for claiming that right is not correctly significant of its real import. To petition, literally means, *to pray, to supplicate, to beg*. How is this servile cringing attitude of spirit consistent with the moral power and freedom of *requiring, of demanding, of insisting, on an indefeasible right?*

Where are the respective authority and dependence existing, which would warrant the representative office of the House of Commons in saying, that the *representative* possesses a power to which the *represented* are so subjected that they cannot be either relieved, or discharged from its obligations, but by the sort of favour that may be shewn to *humility* of petitioning or praying. Does either the principle or practice of social liberty recognise a feeling so abject, so mendicating, as that which would rather crouchingly supplicate, than sternly demand an unquestionable right? There cannot be two opinions with regard to the superior power of the *represented* to that of the *representing*; the former possesses the original and immutable right; the latter has only the exercise of its delegated authority, and to which it can have no moral claim longer than it be merited by a faithful and adequate execution of the duties imposed. The right of domineering and dictating cannot be vindicated by any provisions in the chartered liberties of the British realms, on the part of the *representative* towards the *represented*; and, of course, under no circumstances whatever, can the people be justly degraded to the low state of petitioning as a *boon* what they may demand as a right. All applications to Parliament may not be admissible; the propriety of them is justly subjected to the corrective wisdom of the House; yet, in as far as the objects of such applications were held to be warrantable, they are entitled to the most ample consideration; not because they are couched in servile language, but because they are presented as a remonstrance against either a real or supposed grievance. To talk of denying references to the legislature, in the independent tone of acknowledged complaint, and of prescribing to it the language of mendicancy, to entitle it to any reception at all, is surely to invert the order of moral authority; it is to obliterate and eclipse the real source of power by rendering the *delegated* every thing, and the *delegating* nothing. The hackneyed forms of parliamentary petitions, the gradations of favour assigned to them, in proportion as they attain or fall short of what is regarded as the standard measure of decorous servility; and the unreserved flippancy with which they are either, in the



first instance rejected, or, if received, finally overlooked and forgotten, are among the worst effects of a degenerated system of British representation. When the people know their true political rights, and dignities, and confer them only where they will be faithfully administered for their true benefit, it will then be understood that the style of communicating with the legislature will not be in terms so debased as to assume the character of either a petition, a prayer, or a supplication, but as a demand or remonstrance, according to the circumstances of redress or correction sought to be obtained. The word petition ought, therefore, to be expunged from the legislative vocabulary, it should have no meaning in national politics. What may be justly required by a British people, should be constitutionally demanded, whether it be in the way of instruction, for the amelioration of the State, or in that of remonstrance, for the correction of alledged abuses of delegated authority. The right of the British public to demand of the legislature redress of wrongs, or to remonstrate with it against any affirmed inaccuracies of conduct, cannot be denied.—If either the demand or remembrance should be well founded, it will be entitled to the fullest acquiescence on the part of the legislature; if it should be imaginary and erroneous, it still deserves to be treated with all the respect due from the *delegated* to the *delegating* authority, and in no case to be *contumaciously* rejected as unworthy of notice. The right of the people constitutionally, that is peacefully, to call on the Government to do justice to the public, when it may suppose itself unjustly treated, is one of the most vital privileges of the liberty of the land, and, to be consistent with its own independence and dignity, should be always declared in language of *resolute firmness* and of *determined authority*.

CENSOR.

## No. II.

HISTORICAL NOTICES OF THE WAR OF  
ENGLAND, AUSTRIA, RUSSIA, PRUSSIA,  
DENMARK, SWEDEN, HOLLAND, SAR-  
DINIA, THE POPE, NAPLES, SICILY,

SPAIN, PORTUGAL, BAVARIA, WUR-  
TEMBERG, &c. &c.; WITH AN ARMY  
OF ONE MILLION AND ELEVEN THOU-  
SAND REGULAR SOLDIERS, AGAINST  
NAPOLEON AND FRANCE.

The following, as appears from the French official accounts, was the result of the battle of the 16th inst. to which they have given the name of the "Battle of Ligny-Under-Fleureus."

At half-past nine o'clock we had 40 pieces of cannon, several carriages, colours, and prisoners, and the enemy sought safety in a precipitate retreat. At 10 o'clock the battle was finished, and we found ourselves masters of all the field of battle. General Lutzow, a partisan, was taken prisoner. The prisoners assure us, that Field-Marshal Blucher was wounded. The flower of the Prussian army was destroyed in this battle. Its loss could not be less than 15,000 men. Our's was 3000 killed and wounded. On the left, Marshal Ney had marched on Quatre Bras with a division, which cut in pieces an English division which was stationed there; but being attacked by the Prince of Orange with 25,000 men, partly English, partly Hanoverians in the pay of England, he retired upon his position at Frasnes. There a multiplicity of combats took place; the enemy obstinately endeavoured to force it, but in vain. The Duke of Elchingen waited for the 1st corps, which did not arrive till night; he confined himself to maintaining his position. In a square, attacked by the 8th regiment of cuirassiers, the colours of the 69th regiment of English infantry fell into our hands. The Duke of Brunswick was killed. The Prince of Orange has been wounded. We are assured that the enemy had many personages and Generals of note killed or wounded; we estimate the loss of the English at from 4 or 5000 men; our's on this side was very considerable, it amounts to 4,200 killed or wounded. The combat ended with the approach of night. Lord Wellington then evacuated Quatre Bras, and proceeded to Genappe. In the morning of the 17th, the Emperor repaired to Quatre Bras, whence he marched to attack the English army: he drove it to the entrance of the forest of Soignes with the left wing and the reserve. The right wing advanced by Sombref, in pursuit of Field Marshal Blucher, who was going towards Wavre, where he wished to take a position. At 10 o'clock in

the evening, the English army occupied Mount St. Jean with its centre, and was in position before the forest of Soigne: it would have required three hours to attack it, we were therefore obliged to postpone it till the next day. The head-quarters of the Emperor were established at the farm of Caillon, near Planchenort. The rain fell in torrents. Thus on the 16th, the left wing, the right, and the reserve, were equally engaged, at a distance of about two leagues.

**BATTLE OF MOUNT ST. JEAN.**—At 9 in the morning the rain having somewhat abated, the 1st corps put itself in motion, and placed itself with the left on the road to Brussels, and opposite the village of Mount St. Jean, which appeared the centre of the enemy's position. The second corps leant its right upon the road to Brussels, and its left upon a small wood within cannon shot of the English army. The cuirassiers were in reserve behind, and the guards in reserve upon the heights. The sixth corps, with the cavalry of General d'Aumont, under the order of Count Lobau, was destined to proceed in rear of our right, to oppose a Prussian corps, which appeared to have escaped Marshal Grouchy, and to intend to fall upon our right flank, an intention which had been made known to us by our reports, and by the letter of a Prussian General, inclosing an order of battle, and which was taken by our light troops. The troops were full of ardour. We estimated the force of the English army at 80,000 men. We supposed that the Prussian corps which might be in line towards the right might be 15,000 men. The enemy's force then was upwards of 90,000 men. Our's less numerous. At noon, all the preparations being terminated, Prince Jerome, commanding a division of the second corps, and destined to form the extreme left of it, advanced upon the wood of which the enemy occupied a part. The cannonade began. The enemy supported with 30 pieces of cannon the troops he had sent to keep the wood. We made also on our side dispositions of artillery. At one o'clock Prince Jerome was master of all the wood, and the whole English army fell back behind a curtain. Count d'Erlon then attacked the village of Mount St. Jean, and supported his attack with 80 pieces of cannon, which must have occasioned great loss to the English army. All the efforts were made towards the ridge. A brigade of the first division of Count d'Erlon took the village of Mount St. Jean; a second brigade was charged by a corps of English cavalry, which occasioned it much loss. At the same moment a division of English its right, and disorganised several pieces; but

the cuirassiers of General Milbaud charged that division, three regiments of which were broken and cut up. It was three in the afternoon. The Emperor made the guard advance to place it in the plain upon the ground which the first corps had occupied at the outset of the battle this corps being already in advance. The Prussian division, whose movement had been foreseen, then engaged with the light troops of Count Lobau, spreading its fire upon our whole right flank. It was expedient, before undertaking any thing elsewhere, to wait for the event of this attack. Hence, all the means in reserve were cavalry charged the battery of Count d'Erlon by ready to succour Count Lobau, and overwhelm the Prussian corps when it should be advanced. This done, the Emperor had the design of leading an attack upon the village of Mount St. Jean, from which we expected decisive success; but by a movement of impatience, so frequent in our military annals, and which has often been so fatal to us, the cavalry of reserve having perceived a retrograde movement made by the English to shelter themselves from our batteries, from which they had suffered so much, crowned the heights of Mount St. Jean, and charged the infantry. This movement, which, made in time, and supported by the reserves, must have decided the day, made in an isolated manner, and before affairs on the right were terminated, became fatal. Having no means of countermanding it, the enemy shewing many masses of cavalry and infantry, and our two divisions of cuirassiers being engaged, all our cavalry, ran at the same moment to support their comrades. There, for three hours, numerous charges were made, which enabled us to penetrate several squares, and to take six standards of the light infantry, an advantage out of proportion with the loss which our cavalry experienced by the grape shot and musket firing. It was impossible to dispose of our reserves of infantry until we had repulsed the flank attack of the Prussian corps. This attack always prolonged itself perpendicularly upon our right flank. The Emperor sent thither General Duhesme with the young guard, and several batteries of reserve. The enemy was kept in check, repulsed, and fell back—he had exhausted his forces, and we had nothing more to fear. It was this moment that was indicated for an attack upon the centre of the enemy. As the cuirassiers suffered by the grape-shot, we sent four battalions of the middle guard to protect the cuirassiers, keep the position, and, if possible disengage, and draw back into the plain a part of our cavalry. Two other battalions were sent to keep themselves *en potence* upon the extreme



left of the division, which had manœuvred upon our flanks, in order not to have any uneasiness on that side—the rest was disposed in reserve, part to occupy the *potence* in rear of Mount St. Jean, part upon the ridge in rear of the field of battle, which formed our position of retreat.—In this state of affairs the battle was gained; we occupied all the positions which the enemy occupied at the outset of the battle: our cavalry having been too soon and ill employed, we could no longer hope for decisive success; but Marshal Grouchy, having learned the movement of the Prussian corps, marched upon the rear of that corps, which insured us a signal success for next day. After eight hours fire and charges of infantry and cavalry, all the army saw with joy the battle gained, and the field of battle in our power. At half-after eight o'clock, the four battalions of the middle guard, who had been sent to the ridge on the other side of Mount St. Jean, in order to support the cuirassiers, being greatly annoyed by the grape-shot, endeavoured to carry the batteries with the bayonets. At the end of the day, a charge directed against their flank by several English squadrons put them in disorder. The fugitives recrossed the ravin. Several regiments near at hand seeing some troops belonging to the guard in confusion, believed it was the old guard, and in consequence were thrown into disorder. Cries of *all is lost, the guard is driven back*, were heard on every side. The soldiers pretend even that on many points ill-disposed persons cried out, *saure qui peut*. However this may be, a complete panic at once spread itself throughout the whole field of battle, and they threw themselves in the greatest disorder on the line of communication; soldiers, cannoneers, caissons, all pressed to this point; the old guard, which was in reserve, was infected, and was itself hurried along. In an instant, the whole army was nothing but a mass of confusion; all the soldiers of all arms were mixed *pel-mel*, and it was utterly impossible to rally a single corps. The enemy, who perceived this astonishing confusion, immediately attacked with their cavalry, and increased the disorder, and such was the confusion owing to night coming on, that it was impossible to rally the troops, and point out to them their error. Thus a battle terminated, a day of false manœuvres rectified, the greatest success insured for the next day, all was lost by a moment of panic terror. Even the squadrons of *service*, drawn up by the side of the Emperor, were overthrown and disorganised by these tumultuous waves, and there was then nothing else to be done but to follow the torrent. The parks of reserve,

the baggage which had not repassed the Sambre, in short, every thing that was on the field of battle, remained in the power of the enemy. It was impossible to wait for the troops on our right; every one knows what the bravest army in the world is when thus mixed and thrown into confusion, and when its organisation no longer exists. The Emperor crossed the Sambre at Charleroi, at five o'clock in the morning of the 19th. Philippeville and Avesnes have been given as the points of re-union. Prince Jerome, General Morand, and other Generals have there already rallied a part of the army. Marshal Grouchy, with the corps on the right, is moving on the Lower Sambre. The loss of the enemy must have been very great, if we may judge from the number of standards we have taken from them, and from the retrograde movements which he made;—our's cannot be calculated till after the troops shall have been collected.—Before the disorder broke out, we had already experienced a very considerable loss, particularly in our cavalry, so fatally, though so bravely engaged.—Notwithstanding these losses, this brave cavalry constantly kept the position it had taken from the English, and only abandoned it when the tumult and disorder of the field of battle forced it. In the midst of the night, and the obstacles which encumbered their route, it could not preserve its own organization. The artillery has, as usual, covered itself with glory. The carriages belonging to the head-quarters remained in their ordinary position; no retrograde movement being judged necessary. In the course of the night they fell into the enemy's hands. Such has been the issue of the battle of Mount St. Jean, glorious for the French armies, and yet so fatal.

#### PRUSSIAN ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE OF THE 18TH.

At break of day the Prussian army again began to move. The 4th and 2d corps marched by St. Lambert, where they were to take a position, covered by the forest, near Frichefont, to take the enemy in the rear, when the moment should appear favourable. The first corps was to operate by Ohain on the right flank of the enemy. The third corps was to follow slowly, in order to afford succour in case of need. The battle began about ten o'clock in the morning. The English army occupied the heights of Mont St. Jean; that of the French was on the heights before Plâchenoit; the former about 80,000 strong; the enemy had above 150,000. In a short time,

the battle became general along the whole line. It seems that Napoleon had the design to throw the left wing upon the centre, and thus to effect the separation of the English army from the Prussian, which he believed to be retreating upon Maestricht. For this purpose, he had placed the greatest part of his reserve in the centre, against his right wing, and upon this point he attacked with fury. The English army fought with a valour which it is impossible to surpass. The repeated charges of the Old Guard were baffled by the intrepidity of the Scotch regiments; and at every charge the French cavalry was overthrown by the English cavalry. But the superiority of the enemy in numbers were too great; Napoleon continually brought forward considerable masses, and with whatever firmness the English troops maintained themselves in their position, it was not possible but that such heroic exertions must have a limit. It was half past four o'clock. The excessive difficulties of the passage by the defile of St. Lambert had considerably retarded the march of the Prussian columns, so that only two brigades of the fourth corps had arrived at the covered position assigned to them. The decisive moment was come; there was not an instant to be lost. The Generals did not suffer it to escape. They resolved immediately to begin the attack with the troops which they had at hand. General Bulow, therefore, with two brigades and a corps of cavalry, advanced rapidly upon the rear of the enemy's right wing. The enemy did not lose his presence of mind; he instantly turned his reserve against us, and a murderous conflict began on that side. The combat remained long uncertain, while the battle of the English Army still continued with the same violence. Towards six o'clock in the evening, we received the news that General Thielman with the third corps, was attacked near Wavre by a very considerable corps of the enemy, and that they were already disputing the possession of the town. The Field Marshal, however, did not suffer himself to be disturbed by this news; it was on the spot where he was, and no where else, that the affair was to be decided. A conflict continually supported by the same obstinacy and kept up by fresh troops, could alone insure the victory, and if it were obtained here, any reverse near Wavre was of little consequence. The columns, therefore, continued their movements. It was half an hour past seven, and the issue of the battle was uncertain. The whole of the 4th corps and a part of the 2d under General Prish had successively come up. The French troops fought with desperate fury; however,

some uncertainty was perceived in their movements, and it was observed that some pieces of cannon were retreating. At this moment the first column of the corps of General Ziethen arrived on the points of attack, near the village of Smouhen, on the enemy's right flank, and instantly charged. This moment decided the defeat of the enemy. His right wing was broken in three places; he abandoned his positions. Our troops rushed forward at the *pas de charge*, and attacked him on all sides, while, at the same time, the whole English line advanced. Circumstances were extremely favourable to the attack formed by the Prussian army; the ground rose in an amphitheatre, so that our artillery could freely open its fire from the summit of a great many heights which rose gradually above each other, and in the intervals of which the troops descended into the plain formed into brigades, and in the greatest order; while fresh corps continually unfolded themselves, issuing from the forest on the height behind us. The enemy, however, still preserved means to retreat, till the village of Planchenoit, which he had on his rear, and which was defended by the guard, was, after several bloody attacks, carried by storm. From that time the retreat became a rout, which soon spread through the whole French army, which in its dreadful confusion, hurrying away every thing that attempted to stop it, soon assumed the appearance of the flight of an army of barbarians. It was half-past nine. The Field Marshal assembled all the superior officers, and gave orders to send the last horse and the last man, in pursuit of the enemy. The van of the army accelerated its march. The French being pursued without intermission, was absolutely disorganised. The causeway presented the appearance of an immense shipwreck: it was covered with an innumerable quantity of cannon, caissons, carriages, luggage, arms, and wrecks of every kind. Those of the enemy who had attempted to repose for a time, and had not expected to be so quickly pursued, were driven from more than nine bivouacs. In some villages they attempted to maintain themselves; but as soon as they heard the beating of our drums or the sound of the trumpet, they either fled or threw themselves into the houses, where they were cut down or made prisoners. It was moonlight, which greatly favoured the pursuit, for the whole march was but a continued chase, either in the corn-fields or the houses. At Genappe the enemy had entrenched himself with cannon and overturned carriages; at our approach we suddenly heard in the town a great



noise and a motion of carriages; at the entrance we were exposed to a brisk fire of musketry; we replied by some cannon shot, followed by an *hurrah*, and in an instant after the town was ours. It was here that, among other equipages, the carriage of Napoleon was taken; he had just left it to mount on horseback, and in his hurry had forgotten in it his sword and hat. Thus the affairs continued till break of day. About 40,000 men, in the most complete disorder, the remains of the whole army, have saved themselves, retreating through Charleroi, partly without arms, and carrying with them only 27 pieces of their numerous artillery. The enemy in his flight has passed all his fortresses, the only defence of his frontiers, which are now passed by our armies.—At three o'clock, Napoleon had dispatched from the field of battle, a courier to Paris, with the news that victory was no longer doubtful: a few hours after, he had no longer any army left. We have not yet any exact account of the enemy's loss; it is enough to know that two-thirds of the whole army are killed, wounded, or prisoners: among the latter are Generals Monton, Duhesme, and Compans. Up to this time about 300 cannon, and 1000 caissons, are in our hands. Few victories have been so complete, and there is certainly no example that an army two days after losing a battle, engaged in such an action, and so gloriously maintained it. Honour be to troops capable of so much firmness and valour! In the middle of the position occupied by the French army, and exactly upon the height, is a farm called *La Belle Alliance*. The march of all the Prussian columns was directed towards this farm, which was visible from every side. It was there that Napoleon was during the battle; it was thence he gave his orders, that he flattered himself with the hopes of victory, and it was there that his ruin was decided. There, too, it was, that by a happy chance Field Marshal Blucher and Lord Wellington met in the dark, and mutually saluted each other as victors. In commemoration of the alliance which now subsists between the English and Prussian nations, of the union of the two armies, and their reciprocal confidence, the Field Marshal desired,

that this battle should bear the name of *La Belle Alliance*.

By the order of Field Marshal Blucher,

General GNEISENAU

#### ADVANCE OF THE ALLIED ARMIES.

DOWNING-STREET, JUNE 29, 1815.—Dispatches, of which the following are extracts, have been this day received by Earl Bathurst, from Field Marshal his Grace the Duke of Wellington, dated Cateau, 22d, and Joncourt, 25th instant.

*La Cateau, June 22, 1815.*

We have continued in march on the left of the Sambre since I wrote to you. Marshal Blucher crossed that river on the 19th, in pursuit of the enemy, and both armies entered the French territories yesterday; the Prussians by Beaumont, and the allied army, under my command, by Bavay. The remains of the French army have retired upon Laon. All accounts agree in stating, that it is in a very wretched state; and that, in addition to its losses in battle and in prisoners, it is losing vast numbers of men by desertion. The soldiers quit their regiments in parties, and return to their homes; those of the cavalry and artillery selling their horses to the people of the country. The 3d corps, which in my dispatch of the 19th I informed your Lordship had been detached to observe the Prussian army, remained in the neighbourhood of Wavre till the 20th; it then made good its retreat by Namur and Dinant. This corps is the only one remaining entire. I am not yet able to transmit your Lordship returns of the killed and wounded in the army in the late actions. It gives me the greatest satisfaction to inform you, that Colonel Delancy is not dead: he is badly wounded, but his recovery is not doubted, and I hope will be early.

*Joncourt, June 25, 1815.*

Finding that the garrison of Cambray was not very strong, and that the place was not very well supplied with what was wanting for its defence, I sent Lieut. General Sir Charles Colville there, on the day before yesterday, with one brigade of the

4th division, and Sir C. Grant's brigade of cavalry; and upon his report of the strength of the place, I sent the whole division yesterday morning. I have now the satisfaction of reporting, that Sir Charles Colville took the town by escalade yesterday evening, with trifling loss, and from the communications which he has since had with the Governor of the citadel, I have every reason to hope that that post will have been surrendered to a Governor sent there by the King of France, to take possession of it, in the course of this day. St. Quentin has been abandoned by the enemy, and is in possession of Marshal Prince Blucher; and the castle of Guise surrendered last night. All accounts concur in stating that it is impossible for the enemy to collect an army to make head against us. It appears that the French corps which was opposed to the Prussians on the 18th inst. and had been at Wavre, suffered considerably in its retreat, and lost some of its cannon.

#### BELLA HORRIDA BELLA!

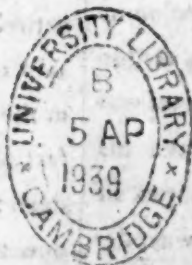
At length once more are loosed the dogs of war,  
To spread wide waste and desolation far;  
To deal destruction on our fellow-men,  
To place the Bourbon on the throne again.  
Imperial Russia's num'rous hordes advance,  
With Europe's monarchs leagued to ravage France  
Now march to give to gallant Frenchmen laws,  
And dare assert, they fight in Freedom's cause;  
But the base object which they seek to gain,  
Is on the free-born soul to fix the chain.

England, alas! the hostile league has join'd  
Lost to her honour, to her welfare blind;  
Justice, with meek-eyed Peace, has fled the land  
Subdued by base Corruption's withering hand;  
Who, o'er our isle, has stalk'd with giant stride,  
Destroy'd, what once was Britain's greatest pride,  
Her boasted liberty—whose sacred flame,  
Rais'd to the highest pitch the British name.  
Will no one seize the helm, and try to save  
The country's shatter'd vessel from the grave;  
Must she ignobly perish in the storm,  
Will no one raise the bold protecting arm?  
Where is that manly, dauntless spirit flown,  
Which once belong'd to Englishmen alone,  
Which in the cause of Justice drew the sword,  
And the stern voice of Honour only heard;  
When to a tyrant they submission scorn'd,  
But with their blood, their rights, their freedom,  
earn'd.

Dead is that manly spirit, or we ne'er  
Could join those wretches who delight in war;  
Whose hearts are callous to their country's woes,  
And who alone are England's direst foes.  
What signal punishment has Heav'n in store  
For those who basely sell, for sordid ore,  
Their country's freedom and her peace destroy,  
And in her deep distress find horrid joy.  
The day of retribution soon must come,  
When these vile wretches will receive their  
doom;  
Their unavailing sorrows then will flow,  
For rigid Justice will no mercy shew,  
But on their coward heads will fall th' avenging  
blow.

Buckinghamshire.

AMOR PATRIÆ.





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